

*Congressional Forum on Mine Safety
February 13, 2006*

WITNESSES (IN ORDER OF TESTIMONY)

PANEL ONE

WANDA BLEVINS is the widow of Dave Blevins, a mineworker killed in the Jim Walters tragedy in Alabama.

DAVID BLEVINS is the son of Wanda and Dave Blevins, a mineworker killed in the Jim Walters Resources #5 Mine tragedy. David has also worked as a coal miner, like his father.

FREDA SORAH is the widow of Joe Sorah, a mineworker killed in the Jim Walters Resources Mine #5 explosion on September 23, 2001, in Brookwood, Alabama.

SCOTT LEPKA is a mineworker currently working at Peabody Coal's Federal #2 mine in West Virginia. He previously worked at the Fairfax #3 Sycamore Mine.

RANDY DUCKWORTH is a mineworker also currently working at the Federal #2 mine.

CHUCK KNISELL (pronounced NI-zool) is a mineworker who used to work at the Sago Mine in Tallmansville, West Virginia, prior to its purchase by its current owner, International Coal Group, or ICG. He now works at Foundation Coal Cumberland Mine in Pennsylvania.

DEBORAH HAMNER is the widow of George Hamner, Jr., a coal miner who was killed in last month's tragedy at the Sago mine in Tallmansville, West Virginia.

SARA BAILEY is the daughter of George Hamner, Jr.

AMBER HELMS is the daughter of Terry Helms, a coal miner who was killed at the Sago mine tragedy last month.

DOLORES BRAGG is the widow of Don Bragg, a miner killed in last month's fire at the Aracoma Alma #1 Mine in Logan County, West Virginia.

PANEL TWO

CECIL ROBERTS is the President of the United Mine Workers of America, AFL-CIO. President Roberts is a sixth-generation coal miner from West Virginia. He worked in a variety of underground mining jobs, rose in the ranks of the union, and became President of the UMWA in 1995.

MIKE WRIGHT is the Director of Health, Safety, and the Environment for the United Steel Workers of America, AFL-CIO, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. One of Mr. Wright's areas of expertise is in health and safety issues for metal and non-metal mines.

NANCY HUTCHISON is a mineworker, a rescue team member, and the Steelworkers' Safety and Health Representative for Ontario Province, Canada. Having spent 18 years as a gold miner in Ontario, Ms. Hutchison is also an expert on technological advances in mine safety – including underground refuge chambers – now used in Canada